



CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS



Newsletter of the St. Louis Region Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Centers

*The August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center
&*

The Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

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February/March 2006

Quail, did you know....

by: Steve Spezia, Private Lands Services Regional Supervisor

- That few quail live beyond 14 months
- That more than 80 percent of the annual quail population fails to carry over to the next year
- That baby quail can fly when only three weeks old
- That a newly hatched quail is the size of a bumblebee
- That the bobwhite is found in every county in Missouri
- That the average clutch is 15 small white eggs
- That the normal incubation for quail is 23 days
- That the peak hatching is around June 15

The Bobwhite Quail (*Colinus virginianus*) have long been a favorite of landowners and hunting enthusiasts across Missouri. Besides being a desirable species for recreational hunting, bobwhite quail also play an important role within forest, grassland, and agricultural ecosystems.

The average bobwhite population density on intensively managed areas is about one covey per 15 acres. The average covey is made up of about 10-12 birds. In the Midwest, the average carrying capacity of the habitat for quail rarely exceeds one bird per acre under the best habitat conditions.

Bobwhite populations are directly related to land use patterns, management practices and weather. They also serve as prey for many predators. Because of their role in the food chain, quail are an important indicator of ecosystem health. The species is representative of wildlife that requires early-successional habitats.

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Bobwhites are an edge species that require a mix of grasses, herbaceous cover, agricultural crops, and brushy cover all closely arranged together. Recent research has found that bobwhite quail seldom travel more than 70 feet from woody cover during the winter.

Basic Habitat Needs

- 1) Nesting Cover- Preferred nesting includes a mix of erect grasses, forbs, and scattered shrubs within 50 feet of an edge or opening with bare ground, where the nesting bird can easily forage.
- 2) Brood Cover- Should be dominated by plants that have well spaced sturdy stems with little foliage near the ground with overhead foliage dense enough to provide sufficient cover to give chicks and adults protection from predators.
- 3) Roosting Cover- Crop fields, grasslands, and old fields. The birds' camouflage and motionless state while roosting eliminate the need for overhead cover.
- 4) Escape Cover- Implies dense cover, usually a thicket combining trees, blackberry, coral berry, other brush and vines.
- 5) Covey Headquarters- Small trees and shrubs (3-12 feet tall) or downed trees that are dense enough to form a canopy, but open beneath to provide movement, approximately 30 feet by 50 feet. Headquarters of different coveys are rarely shared. With a football field being approximately an acre in size, ideal habitat would provide a covey headquarter for every 10-15 acres.

The diet of adult bobwhite consists of insects, seeds, fruits of annual weeds, legumes, grasses, shrubs, trees and cultivated crops. Water needs are usually met by seeds, succulent herbaceous plants, insects, dew, and snow.

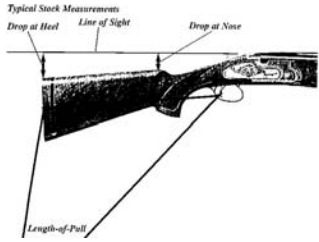
Private Land Conservationists can provide advice on a wide variety of land management objectives. Contact your local Conservation Department office for additional information or assistance.

Shotgun 101 - Stock Fit

by: Tony L. Legg, Busch Outdoor Education Center Supervisor

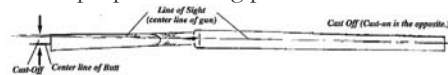
I find that I am constantly bombarded by one resounding question from people about shotguns – I am buying a shotgun for a youth, wife, friend, etc. what should I get? Well, this is a loaded question and can contain several answers, but one answer is above all – Make sure the stock fits properly, the one that fits properly you will probably shoot the best.

In the last issue I talked about recoil and let me say that a poor fitting stock will increase the pain of recoil with any load and create all sorts of bad habits; flinching, pulling your cheek off the stock, jerking, etc. So what are we talking about when we discuss stock fit? Some terms are length of pull, drop at the heel, drop at nose, drop at front of comb, drop at back of comb, line of sight, cast on, cast off, and down pitch.



Let's talk about the basics. Most shotguns are built for the average six foot male and youth guns for the average young male about 12 to 13 years of age. So right off the bat we have a problem. First, males and females are not built the same and the difference I am talking about is in the face. Females have a higher cheek bone, so their shooting eye is lower and looking into the back of the receiver when they put their cheek down tightly on the comb. So if a wife or daughter shoots a father or brother's gun, they must raise their cheek slightly off the stock to have the proper line of sight down the barrel. When they pull the trigger the shotgun recoils to the rear until the shoulder stops it, then moves upwards hitting their cheek. Quickly, the pain is too much and you have probably lost them from hunting or shooting all together. You can compensate for this by purchasing some type of padded comb that slips on or wraps around the stock using spacers and raises the height of the comb or get an adjustable comb stock which adjusts to give you proper line of sight. Stocks for females normally have less drop or a higher comb.

Next, how long is the distance from the face of the trigger to the back of the stock butt/recoil pad, if fitted with one? This is length of pull, most off the shelf shotguns are between 13 3/4 to 14 1/4 inches. These are too long for most women and most youth. So men quit trying to force your wives, sons and daughters to shoot your gun, it doesn't fit. Here is the rule of thumb for getting the right length. With your body in a proper standing position, shoulder the shotgun and get a proper grip. When in this position and your cheek is on the comb of the stock, the distance from your nose to your grip thumb should be 2 to 3 finger widths. Any closer and your thumb will smack your nose during recoil, any farther and your head and shoulders are out of position, recoil will increase along with pain and an unstable and improper shooting position.



Last of the basics now, get a proper shooting stance, close your eyes and bring the firearm up to your shoulder and place your cheek on the stock. Open your eyes and see if you are looking straight down the barrel/rib and if fitted, that both the front and rear bead line up. If you have to slightly cant the firearm left or right to line everything up the cast is incorrect. Most off the shelf shotguns are cast neutral, which is the top of the stock and the barrel is straight in line. However, some of us do to chest build, stance, eye location need the stock to bend slightly. This bend is called "cast". "Cast off", usually for right handers, is when the butt of the stock angles off to the right of center, "cast on" is just the opposite. Each wooden gun stock is slightly different from gun to gun. So in the store try various guns of even the same model, many times you will find one with slight variations in the cast and will fit you better.

Getting these three things to fit are the most critical for most shotguns. If you really get into shotgunning and want to hone your gun fit in the additional areas visit a good gunsmith, if he doesn't fit stocks he probably knows someone who does.

Turkey Hunting a Missouri Tradition

by Rothman R. Harris II, Henges Resource Assistant



The long days of the winter season are upon us, placing your firearms in the gun safe closes a chapter hopefully on a successful hunting season. However, locking up your guns and throwing away the keys so to speak, should not be considered a means to an end per say. The late winter months is the time turkey hunters should spend countless hours researching, gathering information and planning for the upcoming spring turkey season.

Those suffering from cabin fever can break the monotony of those long winter days by practicing, sampling and utilizing various calls. Fluid practice of these techniques will only better your chances to lure in that big boss tom. What better way to spend your day by filling the house with the melodious sounds of mimicking the wild turkey.



Gun selection should be a well researched avenue as well. You can always listen to your buddies' opinions on gun selection however, guns fit differently and perform differently based upon the shooter and shot selection as well. Shooting various shot sizes and brands will allow you to choose the shot size that pattern well in your shotgun of choice. Going out to your local shooting ranges and patterning your shotgun will give you first hand visual knowledge of what a good versus bad pattern is. The more pellets inside a 30 inch circle is a good indication that this is the shot size for this particular shotgun.



Camouflage clothing is just as important, there's an assortment of patterns to choose from so choose wisely. The main purpose of camouflage is to break up your outline and or silhouette allowing you to get that much closer to your quarry. These choices should be based upon the area you hunt; it's terrain and or background colors. The art of concealment once mastered will increase your chances of bringing home some good table fare for your friends and family to enjoy!

As the forest floor starts to warm, get out in the field and put those practices and techniques together to form a turkey hunting scheme that's virtually foolproof. One advantage that hunters have during the spring turkey hunting season is the fact toms are focused on one thing...mating. This allows hunters to lure toms into shooting range in their quest to mate with hens. One way to accomplish this task is to set up relatively close to the area where the tom likes to strut. Utilize several calls in an attempt to lure him in for that perfect shot.

The area a tom chooses to strut may be in a corn field, a ridge top, a hillside or a river bottom. Hence, a strut zone is a place in the woods or in a field where big boss toms like to strut. Locating these areas allows you to see the tom in his natural element. He is comfortable, happy and content so he uses this same location as a strutting zone on a daily basis. Turkeys if undisturbed are habitual creatures which gives you the opportunity to establish a pattern of their daily comings and goings. Knowing where a big boss tom likes to strut his stuff is



the easy part, getting there before he makes his presence known is the hard part.



Be prepared to adjust your hunting plans as the season progresses. By being a woodsman and knowing several areas that turkeys frequent, feed and mate will always increase your chances of a successful harvest. Remember when preparation meets with preparedness the outcome is success...

August A. Busch Memorial Outdoor Education Center

To Register for Programs/Classes Call (636) 441-4554

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Missouri Boater Education Certification Course Tuesday, Jan. 30th, & Wednesday, Feb. 1st – 6pm to 9pm each night



Missouri's Boater Education Law went into effect January 1, 2005. The law states that any person born after January 1, 1984 must successfully pass a Missouri Boater Education class/test before operating any motorized vessel, which applies to boats and personal watercraft owned or rented. The law applies to Missouri residents as of January 1, 2005 and non-Missouri residents starting January 1, 2006. Anyone wanting to operate a boat should take a boater education course. There is no age limit on who can take the course; however, that person should be able to follow the course material and understand its meaning. Missouri law states the operator of a boat must be 14 years or older unless accompanied by an adult. Anyone born after January 1, 1984 also must carry their boater certification card and a photo ID. **To register for this course call (573) 751-2333 or on line at www.mswp.dps.mo.gov**

Missouri Boater Education Certification Course Wednesday, 15th & Thursday, 16th – 6pm to 9pm each night



Missouri's Boater Education Law went into effect January 1, 2005. The law states that any person born after January 1, 1984 must successfully pass a Missouri Boater Education class/test before operating any motorized vessel, which applies to boats and personal watercraft owned or rented. The law applies to Missouri residents as of January 1, 2005 and non-Missouri residents starting January 1, 2006. Anyone wanting to operate a boat should take a boater education course. There is no age limit on who can take the course; however, that person should be able to follow the course material and understand its meaning. Missouri law states the operator of a boat must be 14 years or older unless accompanied by an adult. Anyone born after January 1, 1984 also must carry their boater certification card and a photo ID. **To register for this course call (573) 751-2333 or on line at www.mswp.dps.mo.gov**

Fly-Fishing 108 – Cold Water Trout Fishing Saturday, 4th – 9am to 11am



This 2 hour program will look at cold water fly fishing for trout in Missouri. We will review the special work of the MDC and include a look at the Blue Ribbon, Red Ribbon, and White Ribbon streams and flies recommended for each area. Directions and access points will be identified.

Missouri Hunter Education Certification Course Tuesday, 7th - Thursday, 9th 5:30 pm to 9:30pm each night



Hunter Education Certification Course open to ages 11 and up, youth ages 11 thru 13 must have adult attend with them, ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Must attend all three nights and pass test.

Beginning Skeet Shooting Thursday, 9th - 6pm to 9pm in classroom Saturday, 11th - 8am to 10am at range



This program is for all individuals, with experience shooting and handling shotguns. Course will cover and instruct shooters on the game of skeet shooting. Attendees may bring own shotgun, 3 boxes #8 or #9 shot skeet loads, eye and ear protection or ALL equipment will be provided by MDC.

Fly Fishing 104 – Reading the Water Saturday, 11th – 9am to 11am



It is often said that 10% of the fisherman catch 90% of the fish. Do you ever wonder why that is true? This 2 hours seminar will help you break down the stream into sections and identify the most likely holding place for trout.

Survival Techniques Wednesday, 15th – 6pm to 9pm



This program is designed to prepare you to survive in relative comfort if you find yourself unexpectedly having to spend a night outdoors. In Missouri most situations only require one night out before you are found or find your way out. We will cover how to be prepared and what you need to keep yourself out of trouble, to include fire building, basic compass navigation, shelter & signaling.

Children's experience with the natural world seems to be overlooked to a large extent in research on child development, but it would be interesting to examine children's early experiences with nature and follow how those experiences influence the child's long-term comfort with and respect for the natural world—comfort and respect being concepts that are central to the study of parent-child attachment. Given the power of nature to calm and soothe us in our hurried lives, it also would be interesting to study how a family's connection to nature influences the general quality of family relationships. — *Martha Farrell Erickson, Psychologist*

NRA Basic Pistol Certification Course



Thursday, 20th – 6pm to 9pm & Saturday, 18th – 8am to 3pm

This 10-hour course is conducted in two classes. A Thursday evening classroom session and a all day shooting session at the range and 2 hour final session at the classroom. This course is conducted as a public service and is extremely limited in class size. Attendees must be 21 years of age or older. This course does not meet the requirements for Missouri's CCW Law.

How to Make a Turkey Bone Caller Wednesday, 22th – 6pm to 8pm



This program will discuss Old Fashion Turkey Bone Callers and demonstrate how to take your own turkey bones and make one type of wing/leg bone callers.

Beginning Trap Shooting Thursday, 23rd - 6pm to 9pm in classroom Saturday, 25th - 8am to 10am at range



This program is for individuals with experience shooting and handling shotguns. Course will cover and instruct shooters on the game of trap shooting. Attendees may bring own shotgun, 3 boxes #7 1/2 or #8 shot trap/target loads, eye and ear protection or ALL equipment will be provided by MDC.

NRA Training Counselor Workshop Friday, 25th - Saturday, 26th & Sunday, 27th 8am to 8pm each day



Workshop attendance is limited to current training counselors and qualified instructors. Workshop attendees must be NRA Certified Instructors with a minimum of two years' recent experience teaching NRA Basic Firearm Training Courses according to current NRA standards. They must also be intimately familiar with NRA instructional methods, training materials, and administrative procedures as a result of this experience. (Five NRA-approved courses and 25 students is the absolute minimum experience recommended for workshop attendance.)

Did you miss a past issue of our Conservation Connections Newsletter or looking for a past article.

**No worry just visit our web pages at:
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch
or
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges
and click on the link at the left of the page for our newsletter archives.**

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How to Build a Squirrel Den Box Wednesday, 1st – 6pm to 8pm

Are you handy at working with wood? You can use your skills to help bring wildlife to your yard. Assembled and installed correctly, these wildlife houses can bring great satisfaction to the woodworker when wildlife uses them!



How to Build a Purple Martin House Thursday, 2nd – 6pm to 9pm

Participants will assemble/construct a Purple Martin House that has been pre-cut and take home with them along with the plans for building their own. Minimum of 8 years old and up, Youth under 13 must attend with an adult.



Missouri Outdoor Woman Upland Bird Clinic & Hunt Friday, 3rd – 6pm to 9pm Clinic Sunday, 5th -- 7am to Noon Hunt

MDC, Gateway Chapter of Quail Forever, and Eastern Missouri Chapter of Pheasants Forever will be hosting a FREE Upland Game Bird (quail, pheasants, grouse, chuckers, partridge, etc.) Clinic and Pheasant Hunt for women on the Busch Conservation Area. Clinic will cover firearm and hunting safety, hunting with dogs, habitat, game care and cleaning and much more. Women will then have opportunity to go on a hunt and take one bird. Women will also have an opportunity to shoot clay targets prior to the hunt. MDC will provide firearms and ammunition for those who need them and give them a hunter orange upland game hunting cap all at no charge. For hunt attendees should dress appropriately for the weather and walking in the field (i.e. boots, long pants, appropriate shirt and jacket, etc.). Hunting/shell vests not required, staff will maintain control of all ammunition, however hunters should wear a hunter orange vest or jacket. Open to ages 14 years and above, who are Hunter Education Certified. Women under 16 must attend with an adult



Fly Fishing 200 – Beginning Fly Tying (2 part class) Saturday, 4th & 11th -- 9am to Noon each day

This 2 part class will teach you all you need to know to begin a lifetime of creating your own flies for trout, pan fish, and bass. The program teaches the techniques needed to tie most flies. The course includes all materials and use of tools and equipment. This class is perfect for the novice or beginning fly tyer. Participants should bring a fly box or 35mm film canister to store flies in.



Missouri Hunter Education Certification Course Tuesday, 7th - Thursday, 9th 5:30pm to 9:30pm each night

Hunter Education Certification Course open to ages 11 and up, youth ages 11 thru 13 must have adult attend with them, ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Must attend all three nights and pass test.



Missouri Boater Education Certification Course Tuesday, 7th & Wednesday, 8th – 6pm to 9pm each night

For information please view February Course's Details.



Intermediate Skeet Shooting Saturday, 11th – 8am to 10am

This course is for shotgun shooters experienced in skeet shooting or have previously taken the MDC Shotgun Basics and Sport Shooting course. Clinic will focus on game improvement and working on techniques and problem areas of individuals. This course will not cover basic shotgun or beginning skeet techniques. Individuals deemed inexperienced or lacking sufficient knowledge by the staff, will be released from the course. Course size is limited, experienced youth under 16 must attend with an adult.



Firearms Care, Cleaning & Preventative Maintenance Wednesday, 15th – 6pm to 9pm

Firearms Care & Cleaning, start time 6pm, open to all, youth under 16 must attend with adult. Got that new firearm (Rifle, Shotgun, Black Powder, handgun) or even an old one and want to know the



MARCH PROGRAMS

basics on how to clean and care for it? This program covers safety, basic parts, basic disassembly, cleaning equipment, etc. The Range will provide some firearms and cleaning equipment. Participants may bring their own firearm, cleaning equipment, and owner's manual to the program (NO AMMUNITION).

Crappie Fishing Basics Seminar Thursday, 16th – 6pm to 8pm

How do you catch these fish and have some of the most enjoyment. Come let us fill you in on equipment, techniques, bait, lures, and how to hook these tough fighters.



Catfishing Basics Clinic Friday, 17th – 6pm to 10pm

How do you catch these fish and have some of the most enjoyment. Come let us fill you in on equipment, techniques, bait, and how to hook these tough fighters. After a short classroom presentation we will move to one of our Busch Lakes for actual fishing fun. Attendees must meet license requirements to fish.



Intermediate Trap Shooting Saturday, 18th – 8am to 10am

This course is for shotgun shooters experienced in trap shooting or have previously taken the MDC Shotgun Basics and Sport Shooting course. Clinic will focus on game improvement and working on techniques and problem areas of individuals. This course will not cover basic shotgun or beginning trap techniques. Individuals deemed inexperienced or lacking sufficient knowledge by the staff, will be released from the course. Course size is limited, experienced youth under 16 must attend with an adult.



Predator Calling Saturday, 18th – 9am to Noon

Join us as we cover the basics of mouth calls, electronic calls, decoys and other information to lure in the wariest of Missouri's predators.



Missouri Boater Education Certification Course Tuesday, 21st & Wednesday, 22nd – 6pm to 9pm each night

For information please view February Course's Details.



Fish Preparation & Deep Frying Wednesday, 22nd – 6pm to 8pm

Filleting, skinning, de-scaling, breaded and battered, Missouri's fish can be prepared in all differing manner. Come and let us show you just a few of the ways to prepare your fresh fish for a great meal. We will also show how to use today's outdoor deep fryers and allow you to dine on some of Missouri's tastiest entrees.



NRA Youth Turkey Clinic & Hunts Saturday, 25th – 9am to 3pm

Program is designed for youth turkey hunters. Classroom lecture topics will include: firearms safety, shooting fundamentals, hunting regulations, biology & habitat, hunting techniques, calling, and field game care. Hunts will be included in program. Open to youth 11 to 15 who are Hunter Education certified by April 8th. Youth must attend and hunt with adult Hunter Education Certified by April 8th (age exemptions do not apply). 10 youth only hunts will be available on both Busch and Weldon Spring Conservation Areas for a total of 20 youth at the clinic. MDC will supply firearms and ammunition for youth without their own. Youth must purchase proper tag to participate in hunt.



Spring Turkey Hunting Seminar Wednesday, 29th – 6pm to 9pm

Seminar topics will include: safety, hunting regulation, proper shotgun patterning, hunting techniques, calling and field game care.



Hunting Wild Morel Mushrooms Thursday, 30th – 6pm to 9pm

Learn when and where to look to find Missouri's wild edible mushrooms. We will also cover storage and preparation of these delights.



Jay Henges Outdoor Education Center

To Register for Programs/Classes Call (636) 441-4554

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FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Beginner Adult Rabbit Clinic & Hunt

**Wednesday, 1st - 6pm to 8pm &
Saturday, 4th - 8am to 1pm**

A rabbit clinic and hunt for adult "first-time" hunters. Clinic includes hunting regulations, hunting techniques, game care, firearms safety, and shotgun shooting fundamentals. All participants must attend clinic to participate in the rabbit hunt.



Introduction to Backpacking

Thursday, 2nd - 6pm to 9pm

Course will include backpacking skills, basic equipment, campsite selection, and places to go. A great activity for the whole family.



Basics of Reloading Your Own Ammunition

Saturday, 4th - 12pm to 4pm

Instruction for beginners who want to learn the process of reloading their own ammunition. Includes equipment needed, and the cost involved. This is a great hobby you can enjoy while saving money on ammunition.



Metallic Cartridge Reloading for Rifles

Wednesday, 8th - 6:30pm to 9pm

An introductory course for reloading metallic rifle ammunition. Instruction includes reloading press, and accessory selection, choosing the proper components, and sources of reloading data. Learn to customize your reloads for your particular target or hunting requirements.



Metallic Cartridge Reloading for Handguns

Thursday, 9th - from 6:30pm to 9pm

An introductory course for reloading metallic handgun ammunition. Instruction includes reloading press, and accessory selection, choosing the proper components, and sources of reloading data. Learn to customize your reloads for your particular target or hunting requirements.



Beginning Shotgun

Saturday, 11th - 12pm to 4pm

Learn the basics of shotgun selection, proper fit, ammunition choices, safety, shooting skills, and shotgun games. There will be a shooting activity for this program. This is a great husband and wife or family program.



Range Rules to Remember....

by Jim Engel, Henges Range Officer

"Case & uncase all firearms inside your booth and keep the muzzle pointed down range".

This rule is one of the first to be observed when using the range. After being assigned a booth you will proceed directly to your booth. If the last shooter in that booth is still cleaning or packing up inside the booth, have a seat behind the booth. Do not uncase your firearm(s) yet. When the shooter does vacate, then go inside and uncase making sure the muzzle is pointed down range.

That is how you are to observe the safety rule. Check out this scenario; let's say that the last shooter is still cleaning up inside the booth. You place your gear and gun cases on the seating bench behind the booth next to or down from other folks who are also sitting on the bench. Your gun case is laying flat on the bench. You decide to open the case and take out your firearm to save some time. Think about it for a minute... You will be handling a firearm (maybe a loaded one) with the muzzle pointed at another person sitting on the same sitting bench! What would you think or how would you feel if that were

Winter Survival Skills

Thursday, 16th - from 6pm to 9pm

Instruction for those who enjoy outdoor winter activities. Course includes the latest developments in clothing selection, avoiding weather related hazards, fire-building, shelters, direction finding, and other outdoor tips to make your winter experiences safe and enjoyable.



Wood Working for Wildlife

Saturday, 18th - from 12pm to 4pm

Students will learn how to construct wildlife housing for their backyard viewing pleasure. Topics of discussion will include house placement, what type of home is best for the wildlife you are trying to attract and much more.



Public Fun Shoot

Sunday, 19th - from 10am to 3:30pm

A day of friendly public shooting fun, including competition. There will be a Junior Division (11-17 years) and Adult Division (18+ years) for rifle, handgun, and shotgun trap events. Prizes will be awarded.



How to Score Whitetail Deer Antlers

Wednesday, 22nd - from 6pm to 8pm

Learn the basics on how to score white-tail deer antlers. This is a non-certified course for Boone & Crockett or Pope & Young. This course will give you the basic knowledge to rough score your antlers.



Missouri Hunter Education Student Course

Saturday, 25th & Sunday, 26th - 9am to 4pm each day

The Missouri Hunter Education Student Course is a mandatory requirement for anyone born on or after January 1st, 1967 to purchase a firearm hunting permit. Students must be at least 11 years of age to be certified. Proof of age (birth certificate) will be necessary for those students 11 to 13 years old. Students must pass a written exam to become certified. Topics include Hunter Ethics and responsibilities, Conservation, Shooting Basics, Wildlife Identification, First Aid, and Survival Techniques.



YOU sitting next to the person handling his firearm while pointing the muzzle at you? A little scary isn't it, maybe threatening? You bet!

Okay, your booth is vacant and you proceed directly in. You set your gun case on the shooting table. You have a double gun case and you placed it with one end pointing down range. Your two guns that are in the case, are pointing in opposite directions. You handle and take out the first one that the muzzle is pointing down range, and then go for the other one. Unfortunately that one's muzzle is pointing at the folks behind your booth. Don't pick it up! Turn the case around so the 2nd gun is pointing down range. Now you can safely uncase the 2nd gun.

Last one; you place your gun case on the shooting table sideways. You open the case and go to handle it. Your muzzle is pointing, not down range but at the booth next to you. Not good. Our booth walls are hollow and the 1/4" paneling I guarantee you, won't stop even a .22 round from going through.

Of course you wouldn't bring a loaded firearm to the range in your gun case, but you just can't be sure of the "other guy" now can you. So, try to be 100% safe, always uncase inside the shooting booth with the muzzle pointed down range.

This rule, as all of our rules, is for everyone's safety and enjoyment. They are not intended to be a burden on users. **THANK YOU for helping to keep the ranges safe and fun for all.**

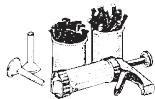
Jay Henges Outdoor Education Center

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MARCH PROGRAMS

Let's Make Some Jerky Wednesday, 1st – 6pm to 9pm



If it walks, flies, or swims... you might be able to make jerky out of it. We will learn to make jerky from ground meat, meat strips, or chunks of meat. Learn to make jerky in the oven, dehydrator, and smoker.

Map and Compass Skills Thursday, 2nd – 6pm to 9pm



Learn the basics of using a compass for skill in land navigation, explanation of the Agonic line, and declination correction. Instruction will include using and understanding topographical maps, coordination of map and compass, map symbols, and sources of maps and equipment.

How to Pattern a Shotgun Saturday, 4th – 12pm to 4pm



Learn how to assess ammunition and your firearm for specific wild game hunting with a shotgun. Ballistic data and firearm manufacturers recommendation will be discussed. A live firing exercise will demonstrate how to pattern your shotgun and evaluate your target.

Boy Scouts Rifle Merit Badge Program Tuesday, 7th – 6pm to 9pm & Saturday, 11th – 8am to 12pm



This BSA program will be taught by NRA and Missouri Hunter Education Instructors. This is a 2 day program. Program includes a 3 hour lecture on firearms safety, firearms nomenclature, ammunition, and shooting fundamentals. Day 2 will include live fire proficiency testing. This is a popular BSA program and classes fill quickly. This program is designed to be an organized troop activity. Scout leaders must provide a 1 in 5 student ratio. Register Early!

The Art of Filleting Fish Wednesday, 8th – 6pm to 8pm



This course is designed to teach you the proper ways of filleting, steaking and preparing fish with little to no waste. Obviously, this will allow you more time to consume more of your quarry.... Fish!

Basic Shotgun Reloading Thursday, 9th – 7pm to 9:30pm



Understand and learn ways to improve the performance of your shotshells. Course will cover the basics of shot gun shell reloading. Information will be presented on components including hulls, primers, powders, wads and shot.

Beginning Shotgun Saturday, 11th – 12pm to 4pm



Learn the basics of shotgun selection, proper fit, ammunition choices, safety, shooting skills, and shotgun games. There will be a shooting activity for this program. This is a great husband and wife or family program.

Bobwhite Quail Management Wednesday, 15th – 6pm to 9pm



Presented by Missouri Conservation Department's Private Lands Services Conservationist. Learn how to manage your property for bobwhite quail. MDC technical services assistance and cost share programs will be discussed. Let's help to enhance the habitat of this majestic native game bird. Designed for land owners & hunters.

Youth Turkey Hunting Clinic Saturday, 18th – 9am to 4pm



This youth turkey hunting clinic is sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation's Big River Gobblers Chapter and the Missouri Conservation Department. Youths will learn firearms safety, turkey hunting defensive safety strategies, calling techniques, hunt set-ups, hunt strategies, turkey habitat, wildlife regulations, and the importance of shooting skills and patterning your shotgun. All youths must be accompanied by an adult. This program fills FAST, register early.

Intermediate Shotgun Reloading Thursday, 23rd – 7pm to 9:30pm



Learn the building blocks of basic shotgun shell reloading. Class will cover components including hulls, primers, powder selection, wads and shot. Instruction will include problems with pressure and shot to shot variation. This class will help you improve the performance of your shotshells.

Rendezvous with Flint, Steel, Knife and Hawk Saturday, 25th – 12pm to 4pm



Return to the days of the Mountain Man. Learn the 19th century skills that kept the fur trappers alive in the days of the Rendezvous. Class includes instruction in throwing the knife and tomahawk plus starting a fire with flint and steel.

Missouri Hunter Education Student Course Saturday, 25th & Sunday, 26th – 9am to 4pm each day



The Missouri Hunter Education Student Course is a mandatory requirement for anyone born on or after January 1st, 1967 to purchase a firearm hunting permit. Students must be at least 11 years of age to be certified. Proof of age (birth certificate) will be necessary for those students 11 to 13 years old. Students must pass a written exam to become certified. Topics include Hunter Ethics and responsibilities, Conservation, Shooting Basics, Wildlife Identification, First Aid, and Survival Techniques.

Building Live Rabbit Traps Wednesday, 29th – 6pm to 8pm



This program is designed to aid the homeowner or landowner in safely trapping and transporting nuisance rabbits. Participants will assemble a trap in this class.

I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in tune once more. –John Burroughs

Did you pick up this Conservation Connections Newsletter at a business or range?

Would you like to have it delivered to your house free or know someone else who would enjoy receiving it?

Just give us a call with the mailing address of your friends, family, and/or yourself and we will mail it right to your home or business.

**For a Free
Conservation Connections Newsletter
Subscription call
(636) 441-4554**



St. Louis Region Hunter Education Certification Courses

ALL COURSES ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED

(additional courses listed on range program pages)

The Missouri Hunter Education Certification Course is a mandatory requirement for anyone born on or after January 1, 1967 to purchase a firearm hunting permit or deer and turkey transportation tags. Many of our free youth managed hunts and clinics require both youth and adult to be certified.

Open to ages 11 and up, youth ages 11 thru 13 must have an adult attend with them, ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Students must attend all sessions and pass an exam to become certified.

Topics included: hunter ethics and responsibility, firearms and ammunition, firearms safety, hunter preparation, first aid and survival, hunter skills, primitive hunting equipment, and wildlife conservation, management and identification.

Seating is limited, so reserve your place early and check on any special requirements, bringing of lunches, or fees needed for that location. All regional classes scheduled can be seen on the regional web site at: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis

Location: First Baptist Church of Arnold
Date: March 21st, 23rd, & 25th
Time: Tues & Thu 6:30pm to 9:30pm,
Saturday 8am to 4pm
Registration#: (636) 296-7729 ext 1401

Location: Festus/Crystal Elks Lodge
Date: March 25th & 26th
Time: Saturday 8am to 3pm, Sunday 9am to 4pm
Registration#: (636) 937-0910

Location: Jefferson College
Date: March 28th, 30th & April 1st
Time: Tues & Thu 6:30pm to 9:30pm,
Saturday 8am to 3pm
Registration#: (636) 797-3000 ext 144
Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility

Lincoln County

Location: Old Monroe Knights of Columbus Hall
Date: March 4th & 5th
Time: Sat. 6pm to 9:30pm & Sun. 8am to 5:30pm
Registration#: (636) 665-5374

St. Charles County

Location: St. Charles Community College
Date: February 4th & 5th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (636) 922-8233
Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility

Location: St. Peters Senior Center
Date: March 4th & 5th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (636) 477-6600 ext 400
Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility

Location: St. Charles Community College
Date: March 4th & 5th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (636) 922-8233
Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility

Location: Busch Conservation Area
Date: March 11th & 12th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (636) 441-4554

Location: Lake St. Louis Fire Station
Date: March 11th & 12th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (636) 625-7943
Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility

Location: Wentzville Parks, Green Lantern
Date: March 18th & 19th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (636) 332-9236
Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility

Location: St. Peters Senior Center
Date: March 18th & 19th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (636) 477-6600 ext 400
Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility

Location: St. Charles Community College
Date: March 18th & 19th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (636) 922-8233
Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility

St. Louis County

Location: Mehlville High School
Date: Jan 31st thru Feb 28th
Time: Tuesday's 7pm to 9:30pm
Registration#: (314) 984-7777
Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility

Location: Meramec Community College
Date: February 4th & 5th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (314) 984-777
Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility



Mr. Dave Meyer (pictured), St. Louis Region's Rural Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor of the Year award winner for 2004

Location: Jefferson Barracks Park
Date: February 4th & 5th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (314) 615-4386
Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility

Location: Crestview Middle School
Date: Feb 7th thru Mar 14th
Time: Tuesday's 7pm to 9pm
Registration#: (314) 984-7777
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: Forest Park Community College
Date: February 11th & 12th
Time: 9am to 4:30pm each day
Registration#: (314) 664-9175
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: Florissant Valley Community College
Date: February 25th & 26th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (314) 513-4444
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: Forest Park Community College
Date: March 4th & 5th
Time: 9am to 4:30pm each day
Registration#: (314) 664-9175
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: Meramec Community College
Date: March 11th & 12th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (314) 984-777
Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility

Location: Florissant Valley Community College
Date: March 18th & 19th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (314) 513-4444
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Warren County

Location: Warren County Fire House #1
Date: March 18th & 19th
Time: 9am to 5pm each day
Registration#: (636) 456-8935

Hunter Education Instructor Certification Courses

Location: Powder Valley Nature Center, Kirkwood
Date: February 2nd & 4th
Time: Fri. evening 6pm - 9pm & Sat. 9am - 4pm
Registration#: Scott Sarantakis (314) 301-1500

Location: August A. Busch Memorial CA
Date: February 24th & 25th
Time: Fri. evening 6pm - 9pm and Sat. 9am - 4pm
Registration#: Kurt Otterstein (636) 441-4554

Location: East Central College, Union
Date: March 4th
Time: All Day
Registration#: Conrad Mallady (573) 468-3335

Franklin County

Location: Four Rivers Career Center
Date: March 6th, 8th, & 10th
Time: 6pm to 10pm each night
Registration#: (636) 231-2131 ext 2923
Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility

Location: Temple Baptist Church
Date: March 13th, 14th, & 16th
Time: 6pm to 10pm each night
Registration#: (573) 468-3335

Jefferson County

Location: High Ridge Civic Center
Date: February 25th & 26th
Time: 8am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (636) 797-5334
Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility

Location: Jefferson College
Date: February 28th, March 2nd & 4th
Time: Tues & Thu 6:30pm to 9:30pm,
Saturday 8am to 3pm
Registration#: (636) 797-3000 ext 144
Remarks: \$5 fee charged by facility

Location: Jefferson County Baptist Assoc. Park
Date: March 14th, 16th, & 18th
Time: Tues & Thu 6:30pm to 9:30pm,
Saturday 8am to 3pm
Registration#: (636) 937-2815
Remarks: \$3 fee charge for lunch

Location: Red Brick Sporting Goods
Date: March 14th, 16th, & 18th
Time: Tues & Thu 6:30pm to 9:30pm,
Saturday 8am to 3pm
Registration#: (636) 671-4444

Location: Arnold Rifle & Pistol Club
Date: March 20th, 22nd, 27th & 29th
Time: 6:30pm to 9:30pm each Monday & Wednesday
Registration#: (636) 424-6214

Remember to check us out on the web for additions, updates and future programs.

www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis



Conservation Connections

Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304-2215
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis

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Look On The Web And Register For Our Up Coming Outdoor Programs Here Are Just A Few!

www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis

www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch or www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges

April

At Busch

6th & 8th Beginning Trap
8th Beginning Fly Casting & Knots
13th & 15th Missouri Outdoor Woman, NRA Basic Handgun
19th, 20th & 22nd NRA Basic Rifle

At Henges

5th Mushroom Growing for Fun, 13th & 15th Mushroom Hunting
12th Build a Turkey Fan & Beard Plaque
26th & 27th Shooting Fundamentals for the Physically Disabled

May

At Henges

5th & 6th Family fishing Program
13th Let's Make Some Stink Bait
17th Family Camping Basics
25th Family Basic Archery

At Busch

11th & 13th Missouri Outdoor Woman, Beginning Skeet
18th & 20th NRA Basic Shotgun
23rd & 24th Missouri Outdoor Woman, Beginning Trap
25th & 27th Youth Squirrel Hunting Clinic & Hunt

Outdoor Education Center Volunteers Wanted

Do you like working with people of all ages? We are continually looking for individuals who enjoy sharing their time, love for the outdoors and dedication to conservation. If you are interested contact us at:

Busch (636) 300-1953 ext 251

Henges (636) 938-9548

**No MORE
Trash!**